

**PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE END OF OPERATIONS**

Lt. Gen. James H. Pillsbury, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command addresses the audience at the Pine Bluff End of Operations ceremony held March 10, 2011.

The Pine Bluff team safely completed disposal operations of 123,100 munitions and approximately 7 million pounds of agent on Nov. 12, 2010, marking the elimination of the chemical weapons stockpile at Pine Bluff, Ark. While the site is now in closure, everyone involved with the Pine Bluff effort paused recently to commemorate their achievements. A ceremony was held March 10, 2011, at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

Current and former employees and members of the community gathered to celebrate the end of operations. The overarching theme was, "Our noble mission safely completed." Notable guests included Lt. Gen. James H. Pillsbury, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command; Conrad Whyne, Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA); Col. Franz J. Amann, Commander of Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA) and Lt. Col. Nathaniel Farmer, Commander at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA).

The PBA has a rich history; the original mission in 1941 was to provide critical support to the nation's pending war effort. That mission, however, varied over the past 70 years, but the focus remained within chemical munitions production and storage. On Jan. 15, 1999, the U.S. Army issued a Notice to Proceed to begin construction activities for the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF).

The PBCDF, which covers 92 acres, is located on the north end of PBA. The actual disposal facility sits on 30 acres. Operations began on March 28, 2005, when workers at the PBCA delivered the first Enhanced Onsite Container (EONC) carrying two pallets of M55 rockets. Throughout the mission, PBCA made 5,879 deliveries of EONCs without incident. Operations at PBCDF included four disposal campaigns—M55 rockets filled with GB nerve agent, VX rockets, M23 VX landmines and mustard ton containers.

Once the chemical agent was safely eliminated, the site entered into closure, which will last approximately two years as the facility is decontaminated and dismantled in accordance with applicable permits. Some of PBCDF's buildings may be left for future use by the Arsenal. After physical plant closure activities are complete, the contract closeout phase will last another year.

In addition to Pine Bluff, the CMA has completed stockpile disposal operations and closed three locations—Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Indiana in 2008, Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland in 2006 and Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in the South Pacific in 2000. CMA continues the safe destruction of chemical weapons at Anniston, Ala., Tooele, Utah, and Umatilla, Ore.



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*** *Our Noble Mission Safely Completed* ***